

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 17849 01 OF 02 220803Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 /084 W  
-----017703 220828Z /12  
R 220701Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6621  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 17849

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, CB  
SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC  
KAMPUCHEA

REF: STATE 157953

1. SUMMARY: AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS FIRST OF SERIES  
OF INTERVIEWS WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN BURIRAM AREA OF  
THAILAND JUNE 15. WE WILL TRANSMIT 14 SUCH INTERVIEWS IN  
THIS SERIES, IDENTIFIED AS COMING FROM "SOURCE A," "SOURCE B,"  
ETC. IN SEPTEL WE WILL TRANSMIT IDENTIFICATION OF EACH  
SOURCE FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION. EMBOFF IS CURRENTLY  
IN SURIN AREA WHERE HE HOPES TO COMPLETE ABOUT 10 ADDITIONAL  
INTERVIEWS, WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED IN SAME WAY. END SUMMARY

2. SOURCE A, 41, FROM BATTAMBANG PROVINCE, WORKED  
IN THE WILDLIFE AND FORESTRY DEPARTMENT OF THE FORMER  
GOVERNMENT. AFTER APRIL, 1975, HE WAS ORDERED BY THE  
KHMER ROUGE TO MOVE TO ANOTHER VILLAGE TO BECOME A FARMER.  
AFTER BUILDING A BAMBOO HUT IN THE FOREST AND BEGINNING  
TO CLEAR LAND IN THE JUNGLE, HE WAS MOVED TO ANOTHER  
VILLAGE, WHERE HE STAYED UNTIL HE FLED TO THAILAND.  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 17849 01 OF 02 220803Z

HE WORKED IN THE RICE FIELDS IN THE RAINY SEASON AND  
HELPED TO DIG DAMS AND IRRIGATION DITCHES DURING THE  
DRY SEASON. HE ESCAPED TO THAILAND MAY 19, 1978. HIS  
ACCOUNT FOLLOWS:

2. QTE CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA.  
DURING 1975, RICE RATIONS WERE ADEQUATE. EACH PERSON

RECEIVED TWO TINS OF RICE (500 GRAMS) PER DAY. STARTING IN 1976, THE 156 MEMBERS OF MY COLLECTIVE ATE TOGETHER. IN 1976-78, THE PEOPLE RECEIVED ONLY RICE PORRIDGE IN INADEQUATE AMOUNTS. THERE WAS NO FISH OR VEGETABLES TO EAT. BANANA LEAVES AND MORNING GLORIES WERE MIXED IN THE PORRIDGE. EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE WAS SICKLY. DIARRHEA, MALARIA, AND BERIBERI WERE VERY COMMON. THERE WAS NO MODERN MEDICINE. THE KHMER ROUGE MADE THEIR OWN OF ROOTS AND LEAVES. AFTER EATING THE KHMER ROUGE MEDICINE, SOME PEOPLE GOT BETTER, BUT OTHERS DIED. THE MEDICINE WAS NOT VERY EFFECTIVE. IN GENERAL, LIFE WAS GETTING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT.

3. QTE SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE. THERE WERE 10301 PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO MY COLLECTIVE. SIX VILLAGES WERE ADMINISTERED BY AN ADMINISTRATOR (KHA MAR PIBAL) FROM ANGKA (THE ORGANIZATION, OR COMMUNIST PARTY). EACH VILLAGE WAS HEADED BY A CHIEF, ALSO FROM ANGKA. OCCASIONALLY, I SAW A FEW KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS, BUT NOT MANY. THE VILLAGE CHIEFS, AND THE GROUP CHIEFS UNDER THEM, RECEIVED THEIR ORDERS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR. THE VILLAGE CHIEFS, IN TURN, PASSED ORDERS TO GROUP CHIEFS WHO TOLD US, THE PEOPLE, EACH DAY WHAT WORK WAS TO BE DONE.

4. QTE REGARDING DISCIPLINE, FOR MINOR ERRORS, SUCH AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 17849 01 OF 02 220803Z

BEING LATE FOR WORK THIRTY MINUTES, YOU WERE WARNED AND GIVEN A VERBAL REPRIMAND. YOU MIGHT BE REPRIMANDED ONE OR TWO TIMES. THE THIRD TIME YOU COMMITTED THE ERROR,

YOU WERE EXECUTED. IF YOU WERE A FORMER GKR SOLDIER OR

OFFICIAL, YOU WOULD NOT BE WARNED; YOU WERE EXECUTED EVEN FOR THE FIRST MINOR ERROR. IF YOU COMMITTED A SERIOUS MISTAKE, SUCH AS TALKING FAVORABLY OF

THE FORMER GOVERNMENT OR CRITICIZING THE NEW GOVERNMENT, YOU WERE EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY. FOR OTHER SERIOUS MISTAKES, SUCH AS STEALING A BANANA OR OTHER FOOD, YOU WOULD BE EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 17849 02 OF 02 220801Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 /084 W  
-----017674 220828Z /12

R 220701Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6622  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 17849

5. QTE RULES WERE GIVEN ORALLY IN THE POLITICAL SEMINARS  
HELD EVERY TENTH DAY. THEY WERE NOT TOO CLEAR, HOWEVER.  
THE VILLAGE CHIEF WOULD MERELY SAY, "WORK HARD. DO NOT  
DO ANYTHING WRONG, WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHAT WAS "WRONG".

6 QTE SOMETIMES THE VILLAGE CHIEF OR GROUP CHIEF  
WOULD REPRIMAND YOU; ADVISE YOU PRIVATELY OF YOUR  
MISTAKE. OTHER TIMES, YOU WOULD BE REPRIMANDED IN THE  
POLITICAL SEMINARS.

7. QTE IN EACH VILLAGE THERE WERE SPIES FOR THE

ADMINISTRATOR, CALED SCHLOP. THE SPIES ARRESTED PERSONS  
GUILTY OF MISTAKES AND TOOK THEM TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.  
ONLY THE ADMINISTRATOR COULD ORDER EXECUTION. IF YOU  
COMMIT AN OFFENSE, THERE IS NO RECOURSE. YOU ARE  
NOT ALLOWED TO DEFEND YOURSELF. YOU ARE SIMPLY EXECUTED.

8. QTE EXECUTIONS. I SAW IN MY VILLAGE IN 1976 THE  
EXECUTION OF A FORMER GKR SOLDIER. THE SOLDIER HAD  
SAID, "LET THE OTHERS WORK BEFORE ME; I WILL WORK AFTER."  
THE SOLDIER WAS EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE MY EYES.  
THE KHMER ROUGE KNEW THAT THE MAN WAS A SOLDIER UNDER THE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 17849 02 OF 02 220801Z

FORMER REGIME. THIS WAS THE ONLY EXECUTION I SAW PERSONALLY,  
BUT I HEARD OF MANY BOTH IN MY VILLAGE AND IN THE  
ADJOINING VILLAGE. YOU DON'T DARE ASK ABOUT SUCH A  
THING, SINCE EVERYONE IS AFRAID HE WILL BE EXECUTED  
IF HE IS CURIOUS. PEOPLE ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH WHAT  
IS GOING ON.

9. QTE I HEARD OFTEN THAT FORMER SOLDIERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE OLD GOVERNMENT WERE EXECUTED. EACH YEAR THE SAME STORY WOULD CIRCULATE, AS THE KHMER ROUGE DISCOVERED MORE FORMER SOLDIERS AND OFFICIALS. I HEARD THAT THEY

DID NOT CATCH THEM ALL AT FIRST.

10. QTE I HEARD THE SAME THING ON MAY 15 THIS YEAR. I HAD A FRIEND WHO WORKED IN THE ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE. MY FRIEND TOLD ME THAT MY NAME WAS ON THE LIST TO BE EXECUTED. I FLED TO THAILAND, ARRIVING FOUR DAYS LATER.

11. QTE HUMAN, CIVIL, AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. WE, THE VILLAGERS, WERE NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE ANY SUGGESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING SUCH AS DECISIONS AFFECTING OUR LIVES, AS HOURS OF WORK, WHAT TO GROW, WHAT TO EAT. BECAUSE OF FEAR, NO ONE EVER DARED TO MAKE ANY SUGGESTION ABOUT LIVING OR WORKING CONDITIONS.

12. QTE THERE ARE NO HUMAN RIGHTS AT ALL IN CAMBODIA... YOU CANNOT TALK, LISTEN TO THE RADIO, CANNOT CONNECT ONE HOUSE TO ANOTHER, ONE VILLAGE TO ANOTHER. YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO MOVE FROM ONE VILLAGE TO ANOTHER, OR EVEN FROM ONE HOUSE TO ANOTHER. I HAVE NOT SEEN A RADIO SINCE APRIL, 1975.

O'DONOHUE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 17849 02 OF 02 220801Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, HUMAN RIGHTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANGKO17849  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DECONTROLLED PER 7/7/78 MEMO FROM EA/VLC - JUDITH R. JOHNSON  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780260-0223  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780632/aaaabboj.tel  
**Line Count:** 203  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** b4aabf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 157953  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2254370  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA  
**TAGS:** SHUM, SOCI, CB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b4aabf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014